

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OPIUM POPPY BAN: ITEM IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

THE FOLLOWING WAS INSERTED IN THE MAY 10 CONGRESSIONAL
RECORD BY SENATOR MONDALE:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84--SUBMISSION OF A CONCUR-
RENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO OPIUM PRODUCTION IN TURKEY.

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

MR. MONDALE. MR. PRESIDENT, LAST WEEK I WROTE TO
PRESIDENT NIXON TO URGE HIM TO TAKE PERSONAL ACTION TO
STOP THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FROM GOING FURTHER TOWARD
RESUMPTION OF LEGAL GROWING OF OPIUM IN THAT COUNTRY.

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THE HALT OF THE TURKISH OPIUM PRODUCTION 2 YEARS AGO HAS

BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST HEROIN ADDICTION IN THIS COUNTRY. IT HAS REDUCED ILLEGAL HEROIN SUPPLIED DRASTICALLY, DRIVEN UP THE PRICE, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, ADDICTS ARE COMING IN OFF THE STREETS AND SEEKING HELP AND TREATMENT.

BEFORE THE TURKISH BAN, AN ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF THE ILLEGAL HEROIN IN THIS COUNTRY CAME FROM TURKEY. SINCE

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IMPOSED A BAN ON OPIUM PRODUCTION, THE NUMBER OF ESTIMATED HEROIN ADDICTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAS DROPPED, ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, MORE THAN 60 PERCENT.

THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE GERMINATION OF SEEDS, AND ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, A DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANTING IN THE FALL MAY TAKE PLACE SOON.

DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO EUROPE, NARCOTICS OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT LEADERS MADE CLEAR TO ME THAT THE KEY TO COMBATING ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IS CONTINUED HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN CONCERN. IF WE DO NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT WE STILL CARE ABOUT THIS PROBLEM, THEN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, WHO HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH US, CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN THEIR HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST AND DEDICATION IN STOPPING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

I WOULD HOPE THAT WATERGATE AND THE ENERGY CRISIS AND OTHER CONCERNS OF THE DAY WOULD NOT LEAD US TO LOSE SIGHT OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT STRUGGLE AGAINST NARCOTICS ADDICTION. I HOPE THIS ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS SHOWN SUCH TENACITY IN OTHER AREAS, WOULD SHOW THE SAME DETERMINATION IN CONTINUING TO FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS ADDICTION.

UNFORTUNATELY THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE CASE. THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING STARTING UP OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES FOR LEGITIMATE PURPOSES. THE DRUG COMPANIES ARE PUTTING ON THE PRESSURE AND CLAIM A SHORTAGE IN THE AVAILABILITY OF OPIUM. THE WHITE HOUSE
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SEEMS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE IDEA EVEN THOUGH THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION HAS STATED THAT THE EXTENT OF THE OPIUM SHORTAGE HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED BY PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES. THE WHITE HOUSE SEEMS COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT BOTH TO THE INHERENT RISKS OF DOMESTIC OPIUM PRODUCTION AND THE FACT THAT THIS WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD BACK THE FLOODGATES OF TURKISH PRODUCTION. THE ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO THINK IT CAN

FOLLOW A POLICY OF TELLING THE TURKS TO "DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO."

THE STORY OF THE ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN ANKARA IS NO MORE ENCOURAGING. THEY SEEM TO BE NO LONGER SERIOUSLY PRESSING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN THE BAN ON OPIUM, AND WORRY MORE ABOUT OUR MILITARY BASES THERE--BASES WHICH WE COULD NOT USE DURING THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR WHILE THE SOVIETS CARRIED ON AN AIRLIFT THROUGH TURKISH AIRSPACE WITH IMPUNITY. OUR DIPLOMATS IN TURKEY SEEM MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TURKISH PRIDE, ABOUT THE TURKISH RIGHTS TO DECIDE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT, THAN THEY DO ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE LIVES AND FUTURE OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS MAY BE RUINED PERMANENTLY IF THE TURKISH OPIUM BAN IS LIFTED. I AM FRANKLY APPALLED AT THIS ATTITUDE.

SO AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, IT APPEARS WE ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING OPIUM OURSELVES THAN IN MAINTAINING A BAN IN TURKEY. AND AT THE LOWER LEVELS, IN THE FIELD, OUR DIPLOMATS ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TURKISH PRIDE THAN THE LIVES OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL BE DESTROYED IF CHEAP AND PLENTIFUL SUPPLIES OF HEROIN AGAIN FLOOD THE AMERICAN MARKET.

FOR THIS REASON, IN MY LETTER I CALLED THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION TO THE LEGISLATION WHICH I INTRODUCED AND WHICH HAS BECOME LAW, 22 U.S.C. SEC. 2291. IT REQUIRES SUSPENSION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING MILITARY SALES AS WELL, UPON DETERMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT THAT A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO TAKE ADEQUATE STEPS TO PREVENT DRUGS FROM UNLAWFULLY ENTERING THE UNITED STATES. LAST YEAR DIRECT U.S. AID AND MILITARY SALES

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CREDIT FOR TURKEY WAS MORE THAN 100 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS YEAR THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO INCREASE THIS TO 140 MILLION DOLLARS.

I CAN UNDERSTAND TURKISH SENSITIVITIES AND REALIZE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AID CUT-OFF COULD HURT TURKISH PRIDE. THAT IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE. I DO NOT WANT TO INFRINGE ON TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY NOR MAKE LIFE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WHICH IS STRUGGLING BACK TOWARD DEMOCRATIC RULE. I AM AGAINST GROWING OPIUM IN THIS COUNTRY AS WELL AS IN TURKEY. I RECOGNIZE THAT DRUG ADDICTION IS PRIMARILY AN INTERNAL U.S. PROBLEM. BUT THE TURKISH PEOPLE AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE GROWING OF OPIUM POPPIES IS NOT JUST AN INTERNAL TURKISH PROBLEM. IT AFFECTS THE LIVES

OF AMERICANS.

WE CANNOT TOLERATE A SITUATION IN WHICH TURKEY TAKES ACTIONS WHICH LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF LIVES IN THIS COUNTRY WHILE WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND IMPROVE THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY.

SO I HAVE CALLED UPON THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION AND REPEAT THAT CALL TODAY. I HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO MY LETTER. TO MAKE CLEAR THE BROAD

CONCERN THAT EXISTS ON THIS ISSUE, I HAVE JOINED WITH SENATOR BUCKLEY, CONGRESSMEN RANGEL, RODINO, AND WOLFF IN SPONSORING A SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION THAT IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE BAN ON OPIUM IN TURKEY, AND TO TERMINATE OUR ASSISTANCE IF IT IS NOT.

MR. PRESIDENT, I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION MAY APPEAR AT THIS POINT IN THE RECORD.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION WAS ORDERED TO BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD, AS FOLLOWS:

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WHEREAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1971 DECLARED THAT THE DRUG PROBLEM IN OUR NATION HAD "ASSUMED THE DIMENSIONS OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY," AND THAT "HEROIN ADDICTION WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND THE MOST SOCIALLY DESTRUCTIVE FORM OF ADDICTION"; AND

WHEREAS IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT PRIOR TO 1972, 80 PERCENT OF ILLICIT HEROIN ENTERING THE UNITED STATES WAS PRODUCED FROM A TURKISH OPIUM BASE; AND

WHEREAS IN 1972, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AGREED TO BAN THE GROWING OF THE OPIUM POPPY IN EXCHANGE FOR 35.7 MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES TO COMPENSATE LOSSES ACCRUED TO THE TURKISH FARMERS AND TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE CROPS; AND

WHEREAS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON OPIUM REDUCTION IN BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF HEROIN AVAILABLE ON THE STREETS OF AMERICA, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE REDUCTION OF THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HEROIN ADDICTS BY MORE THAN 60 PERCENT; AND

WHEREAS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS PERMITTED THE GERMINATION OF POPPY SEEDS WHICH COULD BE READY FOR PLANTING THIS FALL; AND

WHEREAS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY DELIBERATING OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFTING THE BAN ON OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION IN TURKEY; AND

WHEREAS THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CUT OFF AID TO ANY NATION THAT HE DETERMINES HAD NOT TAKEN ADEQUATE MEASURES

TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DRUGS FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES; AND

WHEREAS THE REVOCATION OF THE OPIUM BAN IN TURKEY IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE TO MEASURES PRECLUDING ILLEGAL HEROIN FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (THE SENATE CONCURRING), THAT IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD--

(1) IMMEDIATELY INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE RESUMPTION OF OPIUM PRODUCTION; AND

(2) IF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS PROVE UNFRUITFUL, EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED BY THE CONGRESS UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, TO TERMINATE ALL ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. RUSH

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